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CINCINNATI, Ohio, March 1, 1896.

Editor DECORATOR AND FURNISHER,

114 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. City.

Dear Sir:—I have been a subscriber to your magazine for some time, and have been much interested in its contents. I have just moved into a new house. You will confer a great favor by sending samples and giving advice in regard to furnishings. I enclose plan of ground floor, the dining-room of which I have furnished in old Flemish oak, old gold walls, and frieze of deeper old gold, a shelf for china separating wall and frieze. The walls are tinted in water-colors. Hardwood floors in all the rooms. For the parlor I have a beautiful Persian rug, showing considerable plain pink of a deeper tone than walls. On frieze of parlor are frescoed a few sprays of delicate roses, etc. For the music-room I desire hardwood floor, with a few small rugs thrown where needed. As you will see, it is a small room, and it is most difficult for me to decide about its furnishings. The walls of music-room are a dull pink tone, the frieze a little darker same color, stenciling very soft and harmonious in pale yellow and écru. Please give me samples of materials for this room for window-seats, window-drapery and piano cover. I also want suggestions for parlor and hall furniture, and door and window draperies for all rooms, with samples, if possible. Thanking you in advance if I have troubled you too much, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

MRS. JAMES JOHNSON.



Parlor Drapery.

ANSWER.

New York, February 27, 1896.

Mrs. JAMES JOHNSON,

Cincinnati, Ohio.

DEAR MADAM: We forward you to-day the samples requested for dining-room, hall, music-room and parlor of your house.

HALL.

For your hallway you will find a sample marked No. 1. This is intended for the portières for your doors. This is a warm Oriental effect of low-toned reds, dark blue and yellow—red predominating—fifty inches wide and \$5.00 per yard. It will require lining on the dining-room side with the material sent for that room, and on the parlor side with the material sent for portières of this room. This is a fine wearing quality of goods, very rich in color, and will give an Oriental character to the hall, as you desire. Sample No. 2 is intended for your draperies. This is a plain, neutral blue velour fifty inches wide and costs \$2.30 per yard. With it we send two samples of fringe. The hall fringe is the simpler and least expensive of the two, being but twenty cents per yard; but as the tassels are wide apart it will necessitate doubling up of these to bring about good results, which would bring this fringe double quantity to forty cents per yard. The deep fringe, which is silk, and very stylish, is better wearing and more desirable in many ways. This will cost you ninety cents per yard.

At the foot of the stairs, under the window, we judge you will desire a seat. For the covering of this seat we send you a dull, warm terra.cotta velour, costing \$2.00 per yard, fifty inches wide. We also send you for the curtains a silk-faced lining, which you can have either in blue to match, or in yellow, which closely approximates your walls. This will cost you \$1.00 per yard of fifty inches wide. You will please note that we have selected the portières as a key-note to your room, as this contains colors harmonizing with your walls in every way. We have selected to go with this the blues of the draperies, and the dull red of the seats harmonizes perfectly with this drapery. We feel satisfied that the combination of colors here will bring about the rich and Oriental effect which you desire and will be perfectly harmonious. In bringing about an Oriental effect in a room of this character, it does not seem desirable to have this feature pronounced in more than one particular, so that we have given this key-note to the draperies according with that of the other colors and materials.

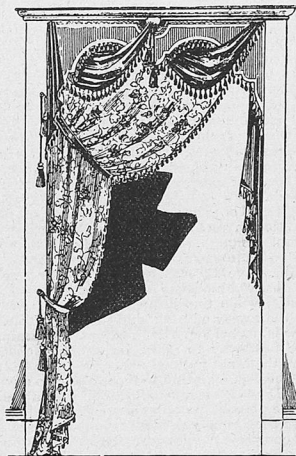
DINING-ROOM.

For the dining-room we send you two samples. No. 1 for your draperies. This is a double-faced goods very rich and effective, and has the added merit of being inexpensive. It has all the qualities of silk brocade without the high price added. As this goods is double-faced, it needs no lining, pronounced colors being a silvery yellow and a golden tone over olive. You can use either side with good judgment, but we would advise turning the darker side towards the room, as the olives will accord better with your red on the wall. For portières we send you a sample of heavy raw silk-and-wool goods, costing \$2.00 per yard of fifty inches wide. This red harmonizes very closely with your walls, although a trifle more coppery in tone. This will be to advantage, however, in finish. The draperies we should advise plain, simple and full, with no laces, as they seem out of place in a room of this character.

PARLOR.

We send you for the window draperies sample No. 1 B. This is a quiet effect in soft old rose and olive, and will need no lining, being double-faced. Here, again, you

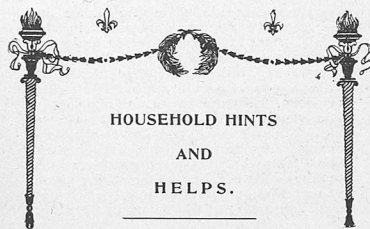
may use either side, but would advise the side we have turned uppermost in the sample. This is fifty inches wide, and costs \$2.50 per yard. Should you require a much stronger and brilliant effect in this room, we send you a sample marked No. 1 A, a very deep, brilliant old rose, although we do not advise it so fully as we would the quieter tone. This is a satin goods, much more expensive, being \$6.50 per yard of fifty inches wide. This would also require lining, which the other does not, but we send you these two extremes, not feeling quite sure what your judgment would be in the matter.



Dining-Room Drapery.

Now, we suggest in the southwest corner of your parlor, between the mantelpiece and the window, that you put in a small cosey corner, draped simply and artistically on the back with the material No. 2 which we sent you, a silvery olive, with pattern over in soft yellow and old rose. This is fifty inches wide and \$2.50 per yard.

Last, but not least, we send you our selections for music-room. We have given this room much thoughtful study and careful consideration. Sample No. 1 is the silk for window draperies, a delicate rose tone, with pattern a deeper rose, outlined with green, fifty inches wide, and \$2.50 per yard. This should be lined with a soft, silk-faced goods, closely matching the colors, if possible. As near as we can judge, this pattern will harmonize well with your decorations, and should advise your using with fretwork straight across the full length of bay window, filling the windows themselves with lace or net draperies. This same silk may be used for piano cover. Sample No. 2 we send as a covering of seats in window. This is a much stronger color, favoring dull citron, but as little of it is used, it will serve as an accent and give needed character, such as is necessary in such a combination of color. This goods is \$2.75 per yard of fifty inches wide. Sample No. 3 we send you for portières. This is a plain velour, in color a soft old rose, and should be backed on hall side with the goods sent for the hall and in back hall door, the lining closely matching it in color. This goods is \$2.50 per yard of fifty inches wide. In a day or two, as soon as the paper goes to press, we will have an opportunity to forward you some sketches and a plan on which we have suggested the arrangement of your furniture. Our sketches include suggestions of draperies in parlor and dining-room.



HOUSEHOLD HINTS

AND
HELPS.

BY HESTER M. POOLE.

IN MOVING TIME.—I.

IN more senses than one is this season to the housekeeper a "moving time." To irritability it moves the paterfamilias, to weariness the mater. From cellar to attic are moved boxes, bags, trunks and barrels. In too many cases the move is from house to house, if not from city to country, or *vice versa*.

Where one has a fathomless purse, domesticity in plenty and a housekeeper, it is simple enough. One has only to don a tailor-made gown, under the attentions of a maid, give the last orders, slip on one's gloves, and hie away to the steamer or the station. To this limited class, who "sleep on the roses and bask 'mid the lilies of life," few of us belong. Suggestions concerning the best way to educe order out of chaos are, then, not untimely.

The first direction to those about to move is: Don't get confused. Begin with a well-made plan of the order of work. Then, before they are engaged elsewhere, make sure of competent assistants. Have everything in order before leaving the present dwelling-house, both in regard to clothing and furniture. Some of the latter may be bruised or broken, but it will come out of the fray unscathed, it is much more likely, if in good condition first. And such things can be attended to when the housekeeper has command of time and is unwearied.

It is usually the habit—and a bad one—to leave the house littered and unclean, and go into one similarly abandoned. The instant the latter is accessible it should be put in charge of a scrubbing woman who understands her business.

At first she sweeps the house from top to bottom, and then wipes off the papered walls and washes those that are painted, supposing, of course, that all repairs and improvements are ended. Paper is freshened by wiping from the ceiling downward with thick slices of stale bread, which detaches dust and grime. The upper chambers may be treated with Indian meal, taken up on a dry cloth, in the same manner as the bread and in its place.

Paint is washed by a tablespoonful of borax in each gallon of warm water, and thick, clean woolen cloths. It should at once be rinsed with fair water. Places much soiled may be treated with whitening taken upon a dry cloth, using soap on the worst spots, and then rinsing it off. Soap is destructive of paint and should be avoided when possible.

Oiled wood may be washed with a trifle of ammonia in warm water, and then re-oiled. Pure kerosene is one of the best of dressings. Where wood is stained or has in any manner been neglected, it should be well rubbed with a woolen cloth, dipped in a polish made out of equal quantities of linseed oil, vinegar and spirits of turpentine. Varnished woodwork may be freshened by an application of weak tea. In all cases dust must first be carefully wiped from the surface.

It should also be stated that the oil, turpentine and vinegar polish above mentioned should be prepared several days before it is to be used, and the bottle containing the mixture must be shaken several times each day.

Cleaning windows is a much easier process than most housekeepers realize. The frames must first be washed, using a skewer to dig out the corners. The skewer, by the way, is indispensable when attacking the dust-filled moldings of base-boards. For the window glass, ordinarily a soft cloth and warm water suffices, but if it is badly incrustated, either a little whitening on the cloth, or alcohol in the water, will clear the panes. Polish off with soft newspapers crushed in the hand, and see that the cleaning is not done with the sunlight falling on the windows.

Where floors are to be carpeted, it is extremely necessary that the nimble and pervasive moth be first destroyed. Have the boards scrubbed with a strong decoction of soda and suds and the mop or cloth moving with the grain of the wood, not across it. After that is dry, have it washed with a strong solution of hot alum water, which should penetrate every crack and crevice. Alum water is death to every species of small vermin that it touches, and to their eggs or larvae. This and the washing soda should be applied by the aid of a mop or brush, instead of the hands.

Hard-wood floors (and these only are suitable—unless made of matched narrow Georgia pine) must be waxed, oiled or stained. Filler's stains, shellac and "hard oils," come already prepared, and can be applied by any stout pair of hands, under competent direction. It must be remembered that all polishing or waxing must be lengthwise of the grain, and that the harder the rubbing, the more successful the result. Oil-cloth and linoleum may be treated to a coat of oil or varnish, and thus prolong their usefulness.

Meantime, carpets and rugs have either been sent to professional cleaners, or delivered to the tender mercies of the man of all work. In the latter case, don't let him rouse the execrations of the neighbors and unnecessarily wear out your handsome Axminster and choice rugs by beating them in the face and eyes of all your little world. They should be placed, face downward, on a piece of turf, and whipped on their backs. The dust will thus be transferred to the ground, where dust belongs. When well beaten, they should be dragged, one by one, over the grass at one side, where the tender blades will sweep the surface of the fabric.

If there are greasy spots upon the carpets, they may be removed by rubbing them with clean flannel wet with benzine. This must be done in the open air, away from fire, and for the time being the man of all work must dispense with his pipe, else he and your carpet together will vanish in smoke and flame. Where the entire carpet is badly soiled, it should be spread on a clean floor and washed all over with water tintured either with borax or gall, half an ounce to the gallon of the former or a teacupful of the latter. A clean brush must be used and the surface scrubbed.

Now, if the new habitation has been thoroughly renovated, it is ready for the laying of carpets and the general moving. Of course, before anything else was done, the cellar and area were cleaned and white-washed, and the closets, with their shelves, attended to. These places are more generally neglected than any other portions of the house. Shelving should be removed, for between them and the wall the sly little moth doth hide from summer until summer again. All crevices in closets ought to be washed with hot strong alum water before they are left.

WITHIN AND WITHOUT.

By L. G. D.

TO connect the season of the year and the state of the outside weather with the furnishing and decorating of the house is the last thing many people would think of, yet it is a very important factor in the beautifying and making attractive of our homes.

It belongs, however, more under the head of housekeeping than housefurnishing, being the happy arrangement and disposal of what you already have. The plainest home, if it possesses this happy harmony, doubles its own attractiveness, and often excels the handsomest one in real comfort and brightness.

On a cold winter's day, for instance, what is more charming than to enter a room with a glowing fire, deep, cosy rockers, brightly cushioned, with warm-colored curtains and rugs, even though they may not be costly; with a pile of gayly-colored pillows in the corners of the sofa, the tea-table at hand with the steam puffing from the shining kettle—everything that can draw the contrast greater between the gloomy outside and the cheerful interior?

One is disposed to linger in a room like this, and the departing guest will carry away an impression of warmth and comfort and brightness that he will not soon forget.

In the spring the opposite effect is what we wish.

Instead of drawing a contrast between the inside and out, we wish the interior atmosphere to partake as much as possible of the freshness and gaiety and charm of the season. Banish the warm-colored curtains, and substitute in their stead fresh ones of muslin or swiss; open the windows wide and let in the sweet-smelling air; place bowls of violets and jonquils about, or branches of budding willow and red-bird on the table. If it can be had, there is nothing in the world so beautiful in the spring as a pink branch of peach blossom. Remove the bright covers from the sofa pillows and replace them with pale green and large-flowered muslin ones. Instead of the glowing fire on the hearth, have a bright blooming plant.

In short, let the whole house strike the keynote of the general reawakening and rejuvenating that is taking place in nature.

And when the hot summer comes, with its glare and heat and dust, let the house again be a refuge. Keep the blinds closed, except in the early morning and late afternoon; remove all the draperies and portieres, except what are absolutely necessary; on the hearth have a pot of moist, cool-looking ferns or a green palm, and, instead of the tea-kettle, a pitcher of ice-water or lemonade.

Palmetto and Japanese fans are cheap, and even hammocks are not expensive luxuries, and the more light wicker rockers one can scatter about the more inviting will the house be. Whatever suggests rest and relaxation and coolness helps to make the home a refreshing retreat.

It will be well to remember that all the handsome furniture in the world will not help on these results one particle without the taste and appreciation to arrange things in keeping with the change of the seasons. Some people's drawing-rooms look the same year after year and season after season; in the winter they have the chill of stiffness and disuse, and in the summer they are musty with close atmosphere and heavy hangings.

Open up your house, and make it look as though people lived in it and enjoyed doing so!